

REMARKS

Rejection of the claims under 35 USC § 102:

Claims 1, 4-6, 10, and 13-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (U.S. 2003/0143204). Applicants have amended the claims to obviate the rejection. Specifically, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claims 7, 8, and 9 into claim 1. In light of the amendment, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Rejection of the claims under 35 USC § 103:

Claims 1, 4-9, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fosnaugh et al. (U.S. 2003/0143732), Manoharan, M. (Biochimica et Biophysica Acta 1489, 1999: 117-130) and Goldsborough (WO 01/94626). Applicants have amended the claims to obviate the rejection. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a hydrophobic group post-synthetically linked to an RNA. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification on in previous claim 5 and page 3 lines 26-32 of the specification. In light of the amendment, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

The Examiner's rejections are now believed to be overcome by this response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendment and arguments, it is submitted that claims 1, 4-6, 10, 13, and 14 should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
transmitted to the USPTO on this date: 09/25/2008.

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